

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electroluminescent cable assembly, comprising:
 - a reel constructed for winding an electroluminescent cable thereon;
 - an electroluminescent cable wound on said reel;
 - a supporting member rotatably supporting said reel such as to permit said electroluminescent cable to be deployed therefrom;
 - and a self-contained power supply carried by said reel so as to be rotated therewith for supplying electrical power to said electroluminescent cable when deployed from said reel.
2. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said self-contained power supply includes:
 - a rechargeable battery for providing a DC voltage;
 - and an inverter for converting the DC voltage of the battery to AC for powering said electroluminescent cable when deployed from said reel.
3. The assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said reel includes a rotatable drum having an outer surface over which the electroluminescent cable is wound; said rechargeable battery being mounted within said drum on one side thereof; said inverter being mounted within said drum on the opposite side thereof to balance said drum during the rotation thereof.
4. The assembly according to Claim 3, wherein the outer surface of said drum is formed with a lead-through opening receiving one end of said electroluminescent cable for connection to said self-contained power supply.

5. The assembly according to Claim 3, wherein one end of said drum is closed by a cover fixed to the drum and carrying a central shaft rotatably mounting said drum, and the opposite end of said drum is closed by a cover removable from said drum to provide access to the self-contained power supply within the drum.

6. The assembly according to Claim 5, wherein said removable cover is sealingly mounted to said drum and carries a manual switch electrically connected to said self-contained power supply for controlling same, and an electrical socket connected to said self-contained power supply for receiving an electrical plug connected to an external power supply for recharging said battery.

7. The assembly according to Claim 5, wherein said opposite end of the drum carries a handle mounted at its outer periphery for manually rotating said drum.

8. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said supporting member is a stand having a pair of legs for stably resting the reel on a flat horizontal surface.

9. The assembly according to Claim 8, wherein said assembly further comprises: a mounting plate having attaching elements engageable with said pair of legs of the stand for attaching and detaching said reel with respect to said mounting plate.

10. The assembly according to Claim 9, wherein said mounting plate is a back plate and includes a body harness attached thereto facilitating transporting the reel to a desired location for deploying the electroluminescent cable thereat.

11. The assembly according to Claim 9, wherein one of said attaching elements includes an upper U-shaped member open at its upper end to receive one of said legs of the stand; and the other of said attaching elements includes a lower U-shaped member open at its side to receive the other leg of the stand; said lower U-shaped member

including a locking device movable to a locking position for closing said open side; locking said other leg of the stand to the mounting plate, and to a releasing position for releasing said other leg from the mounting plate.

12. The assembly according to Claim 11, wherein said movable locking device includes:

a pin pivotally mounted at one end to said lower U-shaped member at one side of its open side and threaded at its opposite end, said opposite end passing through a slot in said lower U-shaped member at the opposite side of said open side;

and a screw having a threaded shank at one end receiving said threaded end of the pin and passing through said slot in said lower U-shaped member, the opposite end of said threaded shank being formed with a head grippable by a user's fingers to rotate the screw in one direction to move the shank into said slot and thereby to lock said pin against pivotal movement, or in the opposite direction to move the shank out of said slot and thereby to release said pin for pivotal movement.

13. An electroluminescent cable assembly, comprising:

a reel constructed for winding an electroluminescent cable thereon;

an electroluminescent cable wound on said reel;

a stand rotatably mounting said reel for permitting the electroluminescent cable to be deployed, said stand having a pair of legs for stably resting the reel on a flat horizontal surface;

and a mounting plate having attaching elements engageable with said pair of legs of the stand for attaching and detaching said reel with respect to said mounting plate.

14. The assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said mounting plate is a back plate and includes a body harness attached thereto facilitating transporting the reel to a desired location for deploying the electroluminescent cable thereat.

15. The assembly according to Claim 13, wherein one of said attaching elements includes an upper U-shaped member open at its upper end to receive one of said legs of the stand; and the other of said attaching elements includes a lower U-shaped member open at its side to receive the other leg of the stand; said lower U-shaped member including a movable locking device movable to a locking position for closing said open side, locking the other leg of the stand to the mounting plate, and to a releasing position for releasing said other leg from the mounting plate to permit deployment of the electroluminescent cable thereof.

16. The assembly according to Claim 15, wherein said movable locking device includes:

a pin pivotally mounted at one end to said lower U-shaped member at one side of its open side and threaded at its opposite end, said opposite end passing through a slot in said lower U-shaped member at the opposite side of said open side;

and a screw having a threaded shank at one end receiving said threaded end of the pin and passing through said slot in said lower U-shaped member, the opposite end of said threaded shank being formed with a head grippable by a user's fingers to rotate the screw in one direction to move the shank into said slot and thereby to lock said pin against pivotal movement, or in the opposite direction to move the shank out of said slot and thereby to release said pin for pivotal movement.

17. The assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said assembly further comprises a self-contained power supply carried by said reel so as to be rotated therewith for supplying electrical power to said electroluminescent cable when deployed from said reel.

18. The assembly according to Claim 17, wherein said self-contained power supply includes:

a rechargeable battery for providing a DC voltage;

and an inverter for converting the DC voltage of the battery to AC for powering said electroluminescent cable when deployed from said reel.

19. The assembly according to Claim 18, wherein said reel includes a rotatable drum having an outer surface over which the electroluminescent cable is wound; said rechargeable battery being mounted within said drum on one side thereof; said inverter being mounted within said drum on the opposite side thereof to balance said drum during the rotation thereof.

20. The assembly according to Claim 19, wherein one end of said drum is closed by a cover fixed to the drum and carrying a central shaft rotatably mounting said drum, and the opposite end of said drum is sealingly closed by a cover removable from said drum to provide access to the self-contained power supply within the drum.

21. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said electroluminescent cable includes one or more electroluminescent wire elements emitting visible light when energized, and one or more infra-red wire elements emitting infra-red non-visible light when energized, each of said wire elements being selectively energizable from said self-contained power supply carried by said reel.

22. The assembly according to Claim 21, wherein said electroluminescent cable further includes one or more monofilaments of a strong, transparent plastic material.

23. The assembly according to Claim 21, wherein said electroluminescent cable further includes an outer transparent jacket.

24. An electroluminescent cable comprising one or more electroluminescent wire elements emitting visible light when energized, and one or more infra-red wire elements emitting infra-red non-visible light when energized, said wire elements being selectively energizable.

25. The electroluminescent cable according to Claim 24, wherein said electroluminescent cable further includes one or more monofilaments of a strong, transparent plastic material.

26. The electroluminescent cable according to Claim 24, wherein said electroluminescent cable further includes an outer transparent jacket.